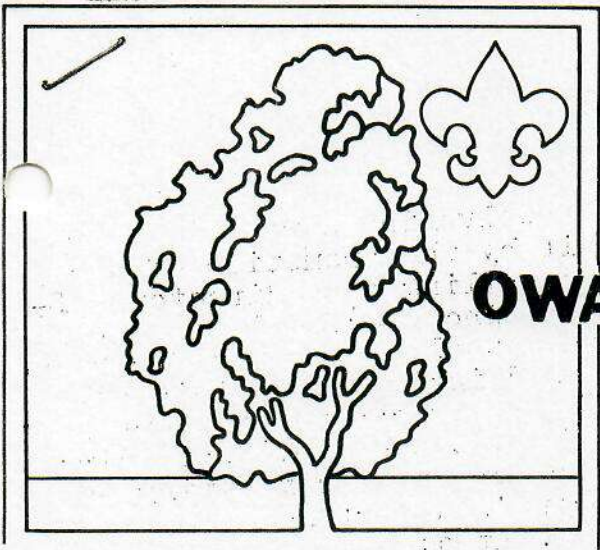




THE TREE

OWASIPPE SCOUT RESERVATION

THE TREE

Some of you may ask, "What is the Tree?" Well, the Tree is the official newsletter and voice of the Owasippe Staff. It hasn't been around for the past few summers, but this year we are trying to make it work again. We will print any news about your camp or programs, but in order for us to do this, you have to send the articles in to us. As you notice there are very few articles about camps in this issue, even though all camps knew we were putting the paper together. We will try to publish the Tree every other week all summer. But to make it work, we need you and your camps to get involved. Send all your articles to either Pack & Paddle or to the Ad Center secretary.

FORMS - FORMS - FORMS

Many staff are still missing their tax, insurance, and medical forms. These forms must be turned into the Ad Center before the next pay check will be issued. A list of staff from each camp missing forms is in the hands of the camp directors. Ad Center staff missing forms are posted in the Ad Center.

NATIONAL STANDARD

The National Standard Inspection was conducted on July 7 by members of the Regional Camping Committee, assisted by members of the Chicago Area Council Camp Operations Committee. For the second year in succession, the Reservation and all camps were given the top rating of National Standard Camp. The NSC pennant was presented to Ed Black, Reservation Director, by Regional Committeeman, Bob Renfoir of Lansing, Michigan. Of the 114 standards on the inspection, the Reservation qualified in 113 categories. All members of the Reservation staff are to be congratulated for a job well done.

ACA INSPECTION

The American Camping Association will inspect Owasippe this summer. The ACA inspection will re-certify the camp as a nationally accredited camp with the ACA for five years. Dates of the inspection will be given to camp directors in the next few days. The staff is urged to do the same fine job with the ACA as was done with the Regional Inspection team.

WOLVERINE NORTH

"My God, it smells like somebody died in there." That is how Wolverine North's senior commissioner, 24 year old Duke, greeted the returning staff on the first day of camp. The large, weather-beaten commissioner was referring to the rank stench coming from the remains of a dead opossum in the lodge refrigerator. John Brown, North's veteran director, was not flustered. "Things can only get better," he said.

Meanwhile, at Owasippe's only monogrammed pool, the aquatic staff sought ways to bolster its thin ranks. Seasoned Stuart staffman Jim Nothnagel and Dixie's Patrick Deane joined the first North aquatic staff in recent memory not plagued by a freezing, leaky pool. The aquatics department is already anticipating next week's water carnival, which will feature a thrilling "Jaws" twist on the now familiar alligator drill. "It'll make "Jaws" look like kiddie-stuff," according to Nick Godbey, North's pristine assistant aquatics director. Field sports are being manned, once again, by Mark Behnke, a 23 year old itinerant disc jockey, who says he returns to Owasippe each year, "Because I like bows and arrows." A former Behnke protégé, Mark Rain, has been promoted to ecology director. According to Rain, "I don't like bows and arrows anymore."

Former North staffer, Ron Kulak, says he will "hit the altar" in August of 1977. Hitting the altar with Ron will be former Family Camper Marilyn Young.

Wolverine North is hard hit by the promotion of "Scope" to sailing base director. Ever since Scope left North, the supply of good firewood has dwindled to a thin pulp. "You just can't get servants like you used to," said director Brown, commenting on Scope's departure.

Wanted:

1 maniacal woodchopper. Must use double-bladed ax and be willing to work on days off. An equal opportunity employer

TRAVELING STAFF

We have received greetings from OSR staff members Tom Crissey and Jim Richerson who are on a world tour this summer. They recently wrote from Singapore where they were visiting the famous Raffles Hotel (Where Kipling wrote "Back to Mandly") and more recently from Greece. Tom and Jim are working their way around the world and have taught school, washed dishes, farmed and done several other odd jobs to earn their board. They plan to return to the U.S.A. in November.

From Dan Vliet who is studying at the Hague in Holland, we hear that his biggest problem is getting used to the funny type of toilets and suppressing the strange urge to run around and set up tents at this time of the year. Dan will meet up with Tom and Jim in Paris later this summer.

The Ghost of Owasippe

Many moons ago in the month of
July,
An unearthly call, like a
plaintive cry,
Was heard on the shore of Lake
Wolverine,
And interrupted the Indian's
peaceful dreams.

"Awake! Awake!" Chief Wasippe
said,
"At long last that omen we
wait for in dread!"
Swiftly and quietly, the whole
tribe
And took to the trail in one
silent row.

To the banks of the lake they
quickly ran,
To the place their canoes sat
in the sand.
With hardly a sound they soon
paddled away,
Then the silence was broken
and they heard the chief say:

"Our ancestors have written
we'll know by a sign,
When it's time for us to leave
this land of the Pine.
The omen will be the sad cry
of the loon
And will only occur when there
is a half moon.

So all of you braves listen
closely to me
And repeat over and over, Oh
Wasippe.
We love the land here and we
want to stay,
So Great Spirit, please send
the loon far away.

But it was not to be, as there
was a half moon,
And out of the silence came
the cry of a loon.
So as silent as they came out
into the lake,
The braves slowly followed in
their chieftain's wake.

Back to their village, the
teepees came down,
The travois were loaded with
hardly a sound.
The braves, squaws, and child-
ren never looked back,
Except for the chief, who
shook from his sack,

Seedlings that slowly fell to
the sand
As they dropped from the old
chieftain's hand.
Now, of course, that was a
long time ago
And perhaps you wonder how all
this I know.

Well here is the secret you
campers to be.
I am the ghost called Oh
Wasippe.
Now those seedlings sowed here
those long years ago,
Have taken root now and start-
ed to grow.

It's an excellent crop with
varieties galore,
There's friendship, brother-
hood, patriotism, and more!
There's understanding, reli-
gion, and advancement in store.

So let's cultivate, nurture,
and eventually reap.
Those things we treasure and
we want to keep.
So review all the blessings
thou hold so dear,
And thank God they're still
here in this Bi-Centennial
Year!

Camp Wolverine North - Site 10
Owasippe Scout Reservation
Bill Braund
Troop 277
Detroit Region
July 6, 1976

CAMP PRE

The season for Pre opened early again this year with the arrival of Bruce Kreja (Scope) in April. When veteran MOFS, Chris Bury and Duke arrived, Scope had the Guest Lodge (the Spring home and feeding ground of Pre), stocked with a generous supply of firewood. Mike Bolbot, a new member of Pre, arrived in mid-May. Mike worked out well on Pre, and baffled us all with his ability to get 18 gears out of a 3 speed. Three more freshmen to Pre were Rez, Bob Pagels, and Scott Burkhardt. Rez and Pagels had no problems, but Scott had difficulties understanding why the cables were put up across the roads at night. Scott tried (unintentionally), to open Family Camp's cable without a key, and succeeded. Unfortunately, it cost F.C. a new cable and post, and it cost Scott a V.W. windshield. Finally, John Weiss, Curt Andrich, Curt Cavnar, Scott Brown, and Roy (WOP) Martino, topped off Owasippe's Dirty Dozen for the Spring of 1976. Work was rough and things kept going from bad to worse. Soon we were all flat on our backs, so we put our shoulders to the wheel and it wasn't long before we were flat on our backs again.

Some of the many accomplishments of pre this Spring were 2 pool painting parties, house painting, screen repair, barn raising, electrical work, water mains, gas leaks in the middle of the night with only a cigarette to guide you, and all those odds and ends that need to be done before the

staff arrives. Pre is especially proud of the work that was done at Crown. We cut a new road, and de-humped it, too. It's a shame the gravel never got here! The chapel was pre's uncanny example of their knowledge of geometry. It only took them 12 tries before they properly set the transit for the seats in there! The men who worked for 8 hrs/day for 2 weeks in the Chapel have been assured by the Lord, for 3 months worth of credit for services on Sunday mornings.

GTE of Muskegon would like to thank Scope for the business he gave them when he found one of their telephone lines with his double bit ax. Scope added, "I was only cutting roots so WOP could dig a trench for electrical lines."

WOP returned, "Scope, roots are brown and made of soft wood. That was black plastic encasing metal."

Pre had a great Spring, and will leave you with our theme: "If you can't dazzle em' with brilliance, baffle em' with bull."

EDITORS - Curt Andrich
- John Weiss

REPORTERS -
Ad Center - Ed Black
Camp Pre - Roy Martino
North - Chris Bury

PRODUCTION - Mary Beth Nizio